Parade 1/31/68

**Q.** ***Sen. Robert Griffin of Michigan—what is his true reason for objecting to Abe Fortas as U.S. Chief Justice. Fortas liberalism or Griffin anti-Semitism?—Ed Washington, Detroit, Mich.***

**A.** Justice Abe Fortas is not particularly liberal. He is a Vietnamese war hawk who is rumored to have advocated the government's trying of Dr. Benjamin Spock and others. He cast the deciding 5 to 4 vote in upholding the conviction of publisher Ralph Ginzburg on pornography charges. He voted for the right of police to stop and search people on suspicion only.

Griffin's objection to his appointment is based mainly on the charge of Johnsonian cronyism. Fortas is an old Lyndon Johnson friend. Johnson has a traditional policy of rewarding loyal friends and associates with appointments to high office. Most U.S. Presidents do this. Senator Griffin is not anti-Semitic. He feels, however, that Richard Nixon will be elected the next U.S. President. He wants Nixon to appoint the next U.S. Supreme Court justice. If Nixon is elected, present Chief Justice Earl Warren will not resign.